

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011056

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 01566, SENT TEL AVIV, SECSTATE 15
JAN:

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 01566

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR PGOV EG IS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SADAT JANUARY 15

REF: STATE 11038

SUMMARY: CONVEYED SUBSTANCE REFTTEL TO SADAT AND VP
MUBARAK THIS MORNING AND GAVE THEM OUR ABBREVIATED THREE-
POINT AGENDA. EXPLAINED RATIONALE OF REVISED AGENDA AND
NOTED DAYAN IS TRYING SELL BEGIN AND ISRAELI CABINET
TODAY REVISED ITEM B. AFTER STUDYING OUR REVISED AGENDA,
SADAT SAID HE COULD ACCEPT IT. HE ESPECIALLY LIKED
"COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT." ALSO EXPLAINED OUR
PRESS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT SECRETARY'S TRIP
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AND REASONS WHY WE DID NOT WISH CAST BLAME ON EITHER
PARTY. EXPRESSED HOPE AGENDA PROBLEM CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY
RESOLVED TODAY AND URGED SADAT IN ANY EVENT SEND DELEGA-
TION TO JERUSALEM AS SCHEDULED SO AS TO AVOID PUBLIC
APPEARANCE OF COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT SAID HE
WOULD WISH DISCUSS WITH SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT DID NOT
THINK DELEGATION COULD GO UNTIL AGENDA DIFFERENCES RESOLVED,

THIS WOULD DEPEND ON ISRAELI DECISION. I ALSO URGED BOTH SIDES ESCHEW FURTHER INFLAMMATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. HAD HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH SADAT THIS MORNING AS SCHEDULED. VP MUBARAK AND, LATER, PRIMIN SALEM WERE WITH HIM.

2. TOLD HIM OF SECRETARY'S DISAPPOINTMENT IN HAVING TO POSTPONE ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM AND HOPE THAT AGENDA DIFFICULTY CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY RESOLVED. SADAT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S ACTION.

3. I THEN BRIEFED HIM ON DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST NIGHT AFTER MY TELECON WITH VP MUBARAK. EMPHASIZED THAT BEGIN WANTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, BUT NEEDS TO CONSULT HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES. MUBARAK INTERJECTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ISRAELI CABINET MEETING SOMETIME THIS MORNING. ALSO TOLD HIM DAYAN WILL ATTEMPT PERSUADE BEGIN AND CABINET TO ACCEPT ABBREVIATED VERSION OF HIS EARLIER SUGGESTED FORMULATION FOR ITEM B.

4. SINCE EGYPTIANS HAD NOT BEEN FILLED IN ON DETAILS OF OUR EFFORTS OF PAST FEW DAYS TO SIMPLIFY AGENDA, I GAVE VP MUBARAK COPIES OF OUR REVISED AGENDA PROPOSAL. NOTED THAT IN SHORTENING ITEM A, WE HAD CONSCIOUSLY SUBSTITUTED
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"COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT" FOR EARLIER LANGUAGE RE "NEGOTIATIONS OF PEACE TREATIES," IN EFFORT BE OF HELP TO PHRASEOLOGY WOULD BE SUCH THINGS AS WITHDRAWAL, BORDERS, SOLUTION PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, ETC. ALSO POINTED OUT UTILITY OF THIS LANGUAGE TO ENABLE HIM RE-EMPHASIZE AT HOME AND TO ARAB WORLD THAT HIS PURPOSE IS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. SADAT LIKED THIS AND SAID HE HAS NOT PROBLEM WITH IT. ON ITEM C, I POINTED OUT THIS IS UNCHANGED.

5. THE DIFFICULTY HAD ARISEN OVER ITEM B. TOLD HIM OF BEGIN'S TURN-DOWN OF DAYAN'S SUGGESTION AND, TO BE SURE THAT MUBARAK HAD PROVIDED FULL DETAILS, I WENT THROUGH BEGIN'S FOUR ALTERNATIVES. SADAT STUDIED THEM CAREFULLY, BUT REITERATED HE FINDS THEM UNACCEPTABLE. I THEN TOLD HIM, AS RESULT OUR EFFORTS, DAYAN WILL TRY TO PERSUADE BEGIN AND ISRAELI CABINET TODAY TO ACCEPT FORMULATION "THE GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATION RELATING TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES." IF DAYAN SUCCEEDS, THIS SEEMED TO US TO BE A NEUTRAL FORMULATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW EACH SIDE TO HANDLE THE ITEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS REQUIREMENTS. I HOPED SADAT WOULD AGREE THAT IT ADEQUATELY

MEETS HIS NEEDS. AFTER LOOKING AT THE FORMULATION CLOSELY, SADAT THOUGHT THAT THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD "ISSUES" IS AN ISRAELI "TRAP". THEY WILL SEEK TO USE THIS FORMULATION TO LIMIT SCOPE OF PERTINENT TALKS. I TOLD HIM THEY MAY OR MAY NOT SEEK TO DO SO, BUT WE THINK THIS FORMULATION ENABLES EGYPT TO PUT FORTH ITS CONCEPTS ON THE SUBJECT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION WITH MUBARAK, SADAT SAID HE COULD ACCEPT FORMULATION. HE WOULD PREFER DELETION OF "ISSUES", BUT WILL GO ALONG IF ISRAELIS INSIST. THUS, ASSUMING DAYAN SUCCEEDS IN HIS EFFORT, WE WOULD HAVE BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO THE THREE-POINT AGENDA.

6. I THEN READ OUR PUBLIC STATEMENT RE POSTPONEMENT
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SECRETARY'S TRIP AND EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE. HE WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN MORE SPECIFIC, BUT DID NOT PRESS THE POINT. MUBARAK NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ANNOUNCED SECRETARY'S POSTPONEMENT IS INTENDED PUT "PRESSURE" ON GOI AND LAUGHINGLY COMMENTED BEGIN STATEMENT SERVES PURPOSE SO FAR AS GOE IS CONCERNED.

7. I EXPRESSED HOPE AGENDA PROBLEM CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY SOLVED TODAY AND CONVEYED SECRETARY'S URGING THAT SADAT IN ANY EVENT SEND EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO JERUSALEM TODAY AS SCHEDULED IN ORDER FIND WAYS AROUND IMPASSE. EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH SIDES CONTINUE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE AGENDA PROBLEM AND THAT THERE NOT BE PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT THOUGHT ABOUT THIS FOR A MINUTE, BUT SAID HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH WAS SCHEDULED MEET IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR SESSION. WHILE HE WOULD CAREFULLY WEIGH THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS, HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO SEND EGYPTIAN DELEGATION UNTIL AGENDA ISSUE IS IN FACT RESOLVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT HE TOO HAS A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM AND CLAIMED EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IS LEAVING WHEN THERE ARE CLEARLY UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES. HE AND NSC WOULD MAKE DECISION IN THE LIGHT OF ISRAELI DECISION ON DAYAN'S REFORMULATION.

8. FINALLY, I TOOK OCCASION URGE THAT BOTH SIDES HOLD OFF FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE OTHER'S MOTIVES LEST THIS CAUSE MORE DETERIORATION IN ATMOSPHERE. ALL OF OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON RESOLVING AGENDA DIFFICULTY AND GETTING NEGOTIATIONS GOING IN JERUSALEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, I NOTED SADAT'S LAST OCTOBER INTERVIEW HAD BEEN A VERY HARD ONE AND POINTED OUT THAT BEGIN'S
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REPLY HAD BEEN COMMENDABLY RESTRAINED. SADAT SEEMED TO
TAKE THE POINT. (MUBARAK TOLD ME PRIVATELY HE HAD SOUGHT
TO DELAY PUBLICATION SO THAT SOME OF HARSHER LANGUAGE
COULD BE CHANGED, BUT BY TIME HE HEARD ABOUT IT,
MAGAZINE ALREADY ON STANDS.) EILTS UNQUOTE. VANCE

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